Upgrading of Shipping Industry

2123. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for upgrading Shipping Industry during 2004 and 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is a proposal to relook into the matter, if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Government has not framed any scheme in particular for upgrading Shipping Industry during 2004-05. However, it is taking measures to accelerate the development of Shipping Sector in the coming years through "Sagar Mala" programme as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The following major initiatives are under consideration for promotion Shipping:

(i) Rationalization of Tax Regime for promoting Indian Tonnage.

(ii) Development of Coastal Shipping, Maritime Training and Shipbuilding/Shiprepair.

Performance of Major Ports

2124. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the operational performance of the major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, port-wise, during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the target set by each port for 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) The performance review of major ports in the country is a continuous process. The operational performance in terms of income of the respective